

Darlington County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

Better job opportunities
Moving people out of poverty cycle
Financial stability
Higher/better quality of life
More involvement in community
Lower crime rate
Attract higher paying jobs
Sense of pride
Continued growth and development individual community and state
Attract higher paying industries
Produces competent workforce which brings more business and improves tax base
Improves overall quality of life
Brings new business and sustains existing business
Retain best and brightest at home

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

High expectations for all
Sense of value from total population (ticket to a better life)
Discussion/agreement on core values with being sidetracked by special interests
More parental involvement that is focused on academics and not fundraising
Develop sense of community at the school level that includes parents
Equity in service
Parent involvement
Develop a relationship with families – draw in the inactive families
Create an environment conducive to learning
Establish confidence in schools that they can do the job
Audit current practices to discover obstacles to success
Create community supply closet in each school (concern: creates apathy, sense of ownership)
Transportation for parents and families

Challenges:

Expectation of all stakeholders – educators, parents, and students
Better approach to discipline – a plan
Clear, fair definition of success
A better assessment of what students know
Structure of school day
Better accommodation of parents schedules

Strengths

Teachers
Strong community involvement
Environment
Quality of life

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

Long range district plan for volunteer and community involvement

YMCA

Work force and education task force

Workforce Investment Act

Mentor programs

Darlington County First Steps partnership

Chamber of Commerce

Strong PTA, PTO, SICs ABC's

Partnership needed better health care access

Darlington County Development Board

Communities In Schools

Parent –teacher organizations need to increase participation.

Effective business partnerships – could be expanded with better focus

After school programs

Success-maker lab

Reading and math tutorials

Good teachers teaching well

Teacher forum

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

Volunteer time at schools

Publicize in many forms the programs available in the district

Establish rapport with significant adults in children's lives

Looping

Use churches to communicate

District bulletin board in various agencies – YMCA, Wal-Mart, grocery stores, Johnny's

Truck Stop, Care South, Library, etc.

Share successes

Get PTAs, PTOs together to share

Turn off the television

Let's get people in the homes involved in learning

Support local leadership – draw others together

Better communication of expectations and needs